

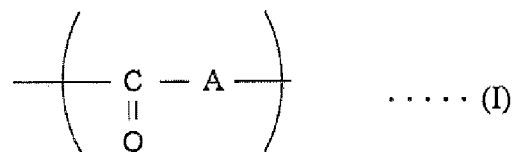
REMARKS

The present claims relate to a rubberized fiber material and a pneumatic tire.

Response to rejection of Claims 1-7 under 35 U.S.C. § 103

The sole rejection in the Office Action of March 23, 2007 is the rejection of Claims 1-7 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 for allegedly seeing unpatentable over Hirata (U.S. Patent No. 4,675,355) in view of Lommerts (U.S. Patent No. 5,194,210).

The present claims recite a rubberized fiber material used in a belt reinforcing layer of a pneumatic tire, characterized in that the rubberized fiber material comprises polyketone fibers having substantially a repeat unit represented by the following formula (I):



In formula (I), A is a moiety derived from an ethylenically unsaturated compound polymerized through ethylenic linkage, and may be same or different in repeat units. The rubberized fiber material also includes a coating rubber covering the fibers, and the coating rubber has a modulus at 100% elongation (room temperature) of not less than 2.5 MPa but not more than 5.5 MPa and a rebound resilience of not less than 60%.

Applicant respectfully submits that the primary reference, Hirata, does not anticipate or render obvious the presently claimed invention. Specifically, Hirata does not disclose or teach a rubber having a modulus at 100% elongation (room temperature) of not less than 2.5 MPa but not more than 5.5 MPa, as recited by the present claims.

The position set forth in the Office Action is that Hirata discloses a rubber having the modulus and rebound resilience recited in the claims. However, Applicant notes that Hirata does not have the modulus recited in the claims. The rubbers cited by the Office Action (Table 1, Examples 6-13 of Hirata) have moduli between 4.5 and 5.3 kg/cm^2 .

Applicant respectfully notes that 1 MPa is equivalent to 10.2 kg/cm^2 . Accordingly, the rubbers cited by the Office Action have moduli between 0.44 MPa ($(4.5 \text{ kg/cm}^2) / (10.2 \text{ kg/cm}^2 / \text{MPa})$) and 0.52 MPa ($(5.3 \text{ kg/cm}^2) / (10.2 \text{ kg/cm}^2 / \text{MPa})$). In contrast, the present claims recite that the coating rubber as a modulus of not less than 2.5 MPa but not more than 5.5 MPa. The rubbers cited in Hirata do not have moduli that fall in the presently claimed range. Accordingly, Hirata at least does not disclose or teach this element of the present invention.

Applicant further notes that Lommerts is not cited for, and does not disclose or teach, the rubber modulus missing from Hirata. Lommerts therefore does not cure the above deficiency in Harata.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that the combined teachings of Hirata and Lommerts do not anticipate or render obvious the presently claimed invention. Applicant respectfully requests the reconsideration and withdrawal of this § 103 rejection.

Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
Application No.: 10/550,553

Attorney Docket No.: Q90237

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.


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Date: June 25, 2007